

*Extract of a letter from Professor Ducatel, Baltimore
February 2d, 1833*

In reference to the subject of making a geological survey of the State of Maryland, connected with a geographical and topographical survey, which you inform me, may possibly be ordered forthwith by his excellency the Governor of Maryland. I have time to make but a very few remarks, and to allude only to the most prominent features of interest which the project exhibits.

There can be but one opinion as to the propriety, and even necessity, that the State of Maryland should very early follow the example set by her sister states, some of them much younger than herself, of directing a mineralogical and geological survey of her territory. Professor Silliman's Journal for January, which I have this moment received, contains the following notice of Professor Hitchcock's Report on the Geology of Massachusetts—"The reviewer of this report, (in the Rev. Encyc., Aug. 1832,) observes that those who consider the English system of abandoning scientific improvement and researches to individual enterprise, as the best of all systems, and who censure the continental government, for devoting the public funds to such purposes, will probably be surprised to see one of the states of New England, *executing at its own expense*, such a work as that of Professor Hitchcock's; and that a single glance at this report is sufficient to convince any one of the utility of such a work, to the state which has undertaken it; and to regret that there is so very small a part of the French territory, whose geological constitution, is as well known to the public, as is now that of the State of Massachusetts." If Professor Hitchcock's work has thus excited the emulation of the learned abroad, it surely may be expected to produce a similar feeling nearer home. The citizens of an enlightened state, would no doubt find a sufficient recompense, for the comparatively trifling cost of such an undertaking, in the approval given to it by men so well qualified to judge of its general interest and importance, and of its *local* utility. We are tempted to add, that it is *shameful* the citizens of Maryland should not yet be able to put themselves in possession of a correct map of their state. But, as to the advantage derivable from a geological survey